

Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile

WASHINGTON

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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

Focus Areas Funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiology and Surveillance – Core • Epidemiology and Surveillance – Special • Laboratory Capacity for Biologic Agents • Health Alert Network
Washington has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing disease and syndrome-specific protocols for potential and confirmed biological/chemical events • Developing fact sheets for obtaining and handling laboratory specimens • Establishing internal and external agency notification protocols • Updating the state-wide and the Department of Health's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans • Developing disease-specific fact sheets for health care providers and potentially-exposed persons • Developing threat guides for public safety and public health agencies, and businesses that may be targets of bioterrorism threats • Passing a resolution to make bioterrorism preparedness a priority for all local jurisdictions in King County • Educating health care providers, emergency management professionals and others about bioterrorism • Updating notifiable conditions regulations to include "diseases of suspected bioterrorism origin" and "unexplained critical illness or death" • Assessing state and local surveillance and reporting systems • Collaborating with the University of Washington's Harborview Medical Center to develop web-based reporting of hospital bed capacities • Conducting syndromic surveillance based on hospital emergency department discharge data and emergency medical services (911) runs • Monitoring unexplained deaths of potential infectious etiology • Training laboratory staff in receiving, testing and reporting specimens • Developing bioterrorism laboratory kits with media, reagents and equipment needed to handle an incident • Establishing procedures for first responders to send bioterrorism samples to the public health laboratory • Implementing laboratory procedures for select bioterrorism agents • Upgrading the Spokane Regional Health District laboratory to BSL-3 capacity • Upgrading local technical infrastructures to include installation of firewalls which support virtual private networking for King, Spokane, and Thurston Counties • Installing satellite downlink facility and videoconferencing capabilities in Kent and Spokane, Washington and other local facilities • Developing a bioterrorism tabletop exercise that facilitates further discussion of emergency preparedness and communicable disease outbreak management at

	<p>the local public health system level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completing the DOJ Performance Assessment in all 39 counties
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<p>Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating health care providers about bioterrorism issues and notifiable disease reporting regulations • Updating and distributing disease specific investigation protocols • Developing BT fact sheets for health care providers, first responders, laboratorians, the media and others • Maintaining and testing emergency communication protocols • Expanding flu-like illness surveillance project • Enhancing laboratory testing proficiency and capacity • Upgrading local technical infrastructures to include installation of firewalls which support virtual private networking in Pierce, Clark, Benton, Franklin, Skamania, Kitsap, and Skagit Counties • Beginning implementation of high-level assurance PKI technologies at all local health jurisdictions • Developing training materials and mechanisms • Developing and refining the national methodology for evaluation of the DOJ-CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment • Hiring a microbiologist/entomologist to develop Taq-Man based procedures for agents of Bioterrorism. • Developing and conducting a survey to identify and profile Level A labs around the state. This survey will be mailed to all the clinical laboratories in the state to determine the personnel, training, technical, and bio-safety capabilities of laboratories for dealing with agents of bioterrorism.
<p>Contact Information</p>	<p>Single Point of Contact</p> <p>Jac Davies, MS, MPH Assistant Secretary Epidemiology, Health Statistics and Public Health Labs 1610 150th St. NE Shoreline, WA 98155 Phone: 206-361-4883 Fax: 206-361-2904 E-mail: jac.davies@doh.wa.gov</p> <p>Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance - Core</p> <p>Julie Wicklund, MPH Bioterrorism Coordinator 1610 150th St. NE Shoreline, WA 98155 Phone: 206-361-2881 Fax: 206-361-2903 E-mail: julie.wicklund@doh.wa.gov</p> <p>Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance – Special</p> <p>Laurie Stewart</p>

	<p>Phone: 206-296-2735 Fax: 206-296-4803 E-mail: laurie.stewart@metrokc.gov</p> <p>Laboratory</p> <p>Romesh Gautom Director, Microbiology 1610 150th St. NE Shoreline, WA 98155 Phone: 206-361-2891 Fax: 206-361-2904 E-mail: romesh.gautom@doh.wa.gov</p> <p>Health Alert Network</p> <p>Greg Smith 1610 150th St. NE Shoreline, WA 98155 Shoreline Phone: 206-361-2924; FAX 206-361-2904 Olympia Phone: 360-236-4099; Fax: 360-236-4088 E-mail: greg.smith@doh.wa.gov</p> <p>Deb Gustafson 1102 SE Quince P.O. Box 47904 Olympia, WA 98504-7904 Phone: 360-236-4448 Fax: 360-236-4421 E-mail: deb.gustafson@doh.wa.gov</p>								
Key Emergency Contacts	<table> <tr> <td>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</td> <td>(425) 487-4604</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Emergency Management Agency:</td> <td>(253) 512-7000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</td> <td>(206) 622-0460</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Public Health Agency:</td> <td>(206) 361-2914</td> </tr> </table>	Federal Emergency Management Agency:	(425) 487-4604	State Emergency Management Agency:	(253) 512-7000	Federal Bureau of Investigation:	(206) 622-0460	State Public Health Agency:	(206) 361-2914
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Anecdotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington is developing a sound infrastructure that is integrated with other communicable disease prevention and epidemiology, laboratory practice, and communications and training needs for the state's public health system The first year saw much planning and coordination that will assure a level of success in coordinating bioterrorism preparedness activities that would have otherwise been impossible 								